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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 28, 2021, at 9 a.m.

Senate

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the Lord of all, prepare our lawmakers today to serve You and country. Give them grateful hearts for Your daily blessings as they comprehend that their times are in Your hands. Lord, inspire them to make a right relationship with You their top priority. Like a potter with clay, mold and make them as You desire, so that they may be vessels of honor for Your Kingdom. May they daily seek You and find joy in Your presence.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 26, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

NOMINATION OF ANTONY JOHN BLINKEN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, as we move through the first full week of the Biden administration, the Senate will continue the important work of confirming President Biden's Cabinet.

Today, the Senate will hold a confirmation vote for Tony Blinken to be the next Secretary of State. Mr. Blinken is just the right person to rebuild and reassert America's national security prerogatives on the global stage and reestablish the first instrument of American power: diplomacy.

For 4 years, the failed diplomacy of the Trump administration weakened our alliances, strengthened and emboldened our adversaries, and tarnished America's reputation abroad. We must reaffirm our commitment to NATO and other critical alliances around the world. We must hold Russia accountable for its malicious interference in democracies. We must confront China's economic, political, and human rights abuses. And we must work with the family of nations to combat the existential threat of climate change.

Once confirmed, Mr. Blinken will also inherit a State Department workforce in desperate need of a leader who knows that everyone on the team plays a critical role in advancing America's interests abroad. Under President Trump, our Nation's diplomats and State Department civilians were relegated to the sidelines, and too many positions in the State Department were left vacant or relegated to irrelevance.

None of this will be easy, but I am confident that Mr. Blinken is exactly the right person for the job. I look forward to seeing this Chamber confirm his nomination later today.

After that, both parties must keep working together to confirm the rest of President Biden's outstanding Cabinet. We are off to a decent pace with the confirmations of the President's Secretaries of Defense, Treasury, and Director of National Intelligence. I appreciate the Republican leader's cooperation and hope it will continue because our country needs that.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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